



September 14, 2020

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## **‘Build a Better Block’ Events Coming to South Division in Early October**

*The Division United project is bringing together Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Wyoming around The Rapid’s Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit Service*

GRAND RAPIDS – The Rapid, in partnership with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Wyoming, will host three community events in early October as part of the [Division United](#) project. The events will highlight three locations along South Division Avenue that will be temporarily transformed into safer, more active and vibrant spaces.

The spaces are being transformed with help from [Better Block](#), a national nonprofit that specializes in activating underutilized urban spaces with temporary installations such as pedestrian safety elements, landscaping and outdoor gathering spaces.

The three outdoor events will take place Oct. 2-3 and feature all-ages fun, food, games and more. They are:

- **Everyone’s Plaza at Division and Logan**
  - 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2
- **Everyone’s Corner at Division and Burton**
  - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3
- **Division Art & Cultural Market at Division and 43rd**
  - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3

All events are open to the public and require attendees to follow COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, including face coverings and physical distancing.

The events are part of the larger Division United project, which aims to identify and implement transportation and development improvements that benefit South Division Avenue neighbors, businesses and stakeholders from downtown Grand Rapids to 60th Street. Division United builds on previous planning and community outreach efforts and is focused on enhancing Division Avenue with more mobility options, affordable housing and vibrant business districts – all connected by Michigan’s first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, the Silver Line.

“The upcoming events provide a great opportunity for community members to come together and experience temporary enhancements that illustrate what an improved Division Avenue can offer,” said Nick Monoyios, The Rapid’s planning manager and Division United project manager. “The collaboration with our partners in the three cities along Division has been positive and



forward-looking. We're very excited about a shared plan for the future that honors the vision of the residents and businesses that make the corridor so special and unique."

More information about the project is available at [divisionunited.org](http://divisionunited.org). The website also includes a survey that will inform the project and ensure the vision for Division Avenue reflects the wants and needs of its neighbors, businesses and stakeholders.

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*Division United is funded through a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant and supported by state and local match funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Wyoming. The goal is to encourage equitable and sustainable development along South Division supported directly by the Silver Line, The Rapid's express Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line that connects the three partner cities.*